

Jail-personnel vacation time
(HB 1108, by Keller)

DIGEST:

HB 1108 would have specified that jailers, jail guards, and jail matrons at any county jail in any city of more than 25,000 inhabitants would be entitled to 15 working days of vacation annually with pay. It would have removed the requirement that not more than two jailers be on vacation at the same time. Penalties for any sheriff who violated this provision would have ranged from \$10 to \$500.

GOVERNOR'S
REASONS
FOR VETO:

Some counties would not be able to afford the additional jail expenses.

SPONSOR'S
VIEW:

Rep. Keller said this was an "innocuous bill" that just clarified language in the statute. The bill corresponds to what is now common practice. He said it is absurd to require by statute that no more than two jailers at a time can go on vacation in a county the size of Dallas County.

Records kept by used-car dealers and repair shops
(HB 1133, by Gibson)

DIGEST:

This bill would have repealed the law that requires used-car dealers and repair shops to record each repair or alteration of an automobile and to record certain personal information about the car owner.

GOVERNOR'S
REASONS
FOR VETO:

The Department of Public Safety and other law enforcement agencies believe that this bill would impair the investigation and tracing of stolen vehicles.

SPONSOR'S
VIEW:

Rep. Gibson said he sponsored the bill because it would have eliminated a "silly, arcane law." The Department of Public Safety did not express any opposition to the bill until after it passed both Houses. Gibson is "extremely displeased with the Department," since it has a whole staff that deals specifically with legislation. DPS should have notified him sooner so he could have redrafted the bill. Gibson said he plans to reintroduce the bill in a future session.

NOTES:

The HSG analysis of HB 1133 appeared in the April 19 Daily Floor Report.

Civil-procedure revisions
(HB 1186, by Messer)

DIGEST:

This bill would have extensively revised the civil statutes relating to civil procedure, civil remedies, and civil liabilities.

GOVERNOR'S
REASONS
FOR VETO:

The bill "appears to contain provisions which modify or conflict with existing, substantive law." Such modifications may be desirable, but first, direct input from the State Bar of Texas and the Supreme Court is essential.

SPONSOR'S
VIEW:

Rep. Messer said the Governor's reason for vetoing the bill was that the Supreme Court wanted more time to study it. Messer said it was "very frustrating" to have the bill vetoed for that reason, because every interested party had a copy of the bill for at least four months before it was passed. Messer said he would reintroduce the bill because it is one of the Legislative Council's continuing code projects.

Brackenridge Park Golf Course
(HB 1415, by Sutton)

DIGEST:

The bill would have authorized the board of regents of the University of Texas System to waive its reversionary interest in the Brackenridge Park Golf Course and Mahncke Park Botanical and Garden Center, owned conditionally by the city of San Antonio. The donor of these tracts of land, George W. Brackenridge, stipulated in the deeds that the city "shall never permit any beer or intoxicating liquor of any kind to be sold, given away, or drunk within or upon" the properties. If the city of San Antonio violates this condition, ownership of the land reverts to the state, in the name of the University of Texas. The bill would have required the establishment of "strict policy guidelines" regulating the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages, "in order to maintain the high standards by which the city of San Antonio has managed the property since the conveyance."